Young People and Missions.

BY MRS. J. W. MANNING.

At the mere suggestion of youth there rises before the imagination, visions of strength, freshness and power. All that is lovely, tender and gracious nod and smile at us, as we face a large audience of young people, and the vast possibilities within their reach almost overcome us. Undeveloped energy, irristable enthusiasm, marvellous power for service here finds its happiest expression. The Apostle John says: "I have written unto you young men, because you are strong, and the love of God abideth in you." In the young, hope, confidence and ambition like imprisoned eagles struggle to be free and spread their wings in the bracing air of untried endeavours, lifting their whole being high into the shining light. It is in youth that the most lasting impressions are made, and great questions move us as they do not in riper years. It is then the character is formed, and the great foundation stones laid, upon which we build in after years. How important that the highest ideas should be placed before us and the most ennobling subjects claim our attention during this period. We are often led to inquire, since all this is true of the young: How is it that such a multitude

are not found engaged in the highest service or devoting themselves to the most important and helpful exercises? So many turn away from the good and pure, that will ennoble and elevate all their God given faculties and mingle with the vile and polluted until the fair and beautiful thing called youth, that the Creator has given each human being is soiled and defiled. They have not the image of Christ upon them they are not united to Him by living faith. This is the reason they turn away from the light and prefer to grope in the darkness. "Walking along the street one day my eye caught sight of something bright about the size of a silver dollar, on drawing nearer it proved to be only a piece of tin lying in the sunlight. Now that is just like many young people. They are bright and pleasant to look upon and attract the eye of all observers; but they lack the *stamp* which makes them worth something, which enables them to do some good in the world. Once let them be filled with an interest in Christ's cause and the salvation of a lost world and he will stamp His image on their character and on their faces too, until they shall become valuable workers". It is the duty of all young people to be *interested* in missions. We should be interested as *christian* young people because Christ has given us His command. His last parting command before He left this earth. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature". The "go ye" means you young people, every one of you, who have accepted Christ yourselves. You are under solemn obligation to give this salvation to all within the reach of your influence and prayers.

This **Mission Work needs you** with all your strength time, talents and enthusiasm, the calls were never so loud and imperitive as to-day, the needs were never so apparent or plainly set forth. Doors of golden opportunity in all lands stand widely open and bid you enter. Thousands of helpless, hopeless beings are loudly calling for just the help you are able to give. They are dying by the million without the gospel, which has been so freely given to you. Can you refuse to render all the help in your power and vigorously engage in this great work?

Not only does this mission work need you; but **you need this work,** for there is nothing that so deepens and quickens the spiritual life of a christian as to engage heartily in this God given service. Missions are not only the divinely appointed means for evangelizing the world, but also for sanctification of God's people. After conversion, the christian life depends decidedly on *doing*, effort on behalf of the salvation of others is essential to spiritual development. How the heart swells and the divine passion of love for the Lord and for the lost, surges through the soul as we see the whole world for whom Christ died stretched out before our eyes in its wretchedness, destitution and despair. We hear the sobbing wail of millions of dying immortals crying "Come over and help us," shall we not have a mighty response from a multitude of our young people, who have been saved themselves saying, "we come to the rescue in Jesus name we come."

The reflex influence of all mission work is to greatly

stimulate an increased spiritual life in the individual thus actually engaged. My dear young people, be assured. You need this work as much as this work needs you. We cannot be interested in that about which we know nothing, so here I would give some means by which this interest may be generated and developed. Every young people's Society should have a *missionary library*. The first book in that library should be the Bible. Oh! christian workers, what can so enthuse us with the true spirit of missions as a study of Gods word and especially the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest of all missionaries and the Apostle Paul who with untiring zeal and wonderful courage, told the glad news of salvation through Christ, from the palace to the prison. Just as anxious to be the means of saving the Roman soldier to whom he was chained as King Agrippa who was "almost persuaded" by his earnest entreaties.

Here we have the brightest example of true missionary lives. From here the missionary soldier receives his commission and marching orders with full particulars how this battle against sin is to be carried on; The weapons we are to use, the Captain's name and character, the promise of victory if we are faithful unto death, the reward and crown when the battle is over. Oh that we may prize and study the Bible more than any other book; but having done this, there are other books that are a great help and which serve to develope our interest and love for this mission work. It is a height which we must climb, first along the foot hills. We must not expect to reach the summit at a single bound; but one is amply repaid for every step, as we rise, new beauties and wonders greet our vision.

I used to think that human wisdom and goodness had combined to make mission literature the dryest most tiresome reading that could be found; but that day is long psst and this delusion vanished, for with this decade has come a flood of mission stories as fascinating as any works of fiction, which serve an excellent purpose as stepping stones to something more solid and substantial. Each society should have the mission books in connection with their own denomination. The History of their mission wherever they may be, the Biography of their own missionaries. It would be well to have these in the Sabbath School, so that all could have free access to them. Do not stop here: but fill this department with the lives of other mission heroes Missionary biography! How God's noble men loom up like majestic mountain peaks above the level of ihe great sea of human life--earth rooted, Heaven crowned.

If you would bedeck the sacred walls of memory with portraits that would speak to you as living companions, then read the lives of Moffat, Livingstone, Carey, Judson, Martyr, MacKay, Patterson, Paton, Williams &c. No one can study the lives of these great and God-like men without being made better and inspired with a desire to do something to help bring this lost world to Christ.

If you want your heart to leap with joy over the sublime opportunity before you, then read The Miracle of Missions. The Greatest thing in the World. The Holy Spirit and Missions. The Divine Enterprize of Missions. Then I think the English language contains no more facinating reading than such books as—Modern Cities, Darkest England, Life of Jerry McCauley. They are legions, only taste and see,

you will all your life rejoice that you were ever led to enter upon this department of literature.

Every young people's society should devote one evening each month to a *missionary meeting*. Taking up some mission field, and with the map learn the situation of the mission stations, the names of the missionaries who are now laboring there, speaking also of those who have worked, suffered and died on these fields in previous years Study the manners and customs of the people, their food and dress. Nothing can be more instructive than such an evening. Spend some portion of the time in special prayer for this particular field and those who are laboring there. Here is where your missionary literature will be invaluable, for you will have an unfailing source from which to draw and no time or strength need be wasted in searching for matarial to furnish the evening's exercises. The meeting aud subject should be announced a month previous and the leader appointed, also state what books are necessary to be read and studied to make the meeting a success. The leader should prepare about twenty questions and answers, bearing on the subject, to be distributed among those who are unable to give the subject particular study so that *all* may feel that they have a part in the service.

Every society should take the missionary magazine of their own denomination, also the "Missionary Review." This is a most valuable periodical and treats of missson work in general all over the world It has a christian endeavour department particularly adapted to meet the wants of these

societies in furnishing short extracts from every available source.

The *leaflet* has a valuable part in this great mission education Every denomination publishes these. They require to be carefully selected and taken charge of by some person who has an interest in the matter and will give such ones as are appropriate, to those who will read them. They contain much valuable information for your meetings, put in attractive shape that can be used without taking time to condense. They have been the means of interesting very many who would not take the time to read a book. If one has proved a blessing to you, pass it along, give it to some friend to read or enclose in a letter. I have thus very briefly suggested some means that may be used to foster and increase this interest in missions

These young people's societies are as truly a missionary enterprize as the volunteer movement, and the fact that God is calling so many of our young men and women to consecrate themselves to this service is a very loud call for us to arise in our might and help to send these forth. For every *one* who goes abroad *five hundred* earnest, active, faithful workers are needed at home and the Master will accept the services of the one as gladly as the other, and both shall rejoice together at the harvest. We see these brave rescuers sailing over every sea, setting foot on every shore, hurrying with swift and eager stride into the heart of the dark Continent, taking possession of every Island, lifting up Jesus as the Savior of men to the wondering gaze of all nations.

Shall not each one of us, my dear young people be engaged in this glorious enterprize ? The Lord requires of each one to **go** or **send.** Can we turn a deaf ear to the voices that are calling on every hand, can we shut our eyes to the awful sights that are continually brought before us of degradation, misery and oppression? Can we live in this christian land of Sabbaths and Bibles and refuse or neglect to give the bread of life to these perishing multitudes?

"Are we faithfully telling to others
The story we've learned to love?
Are we winning dear souls for the kingdom
The beautiful kingdom above ?

Do something! The Master will tell you
How you may serve Him the best;
But haste, with the loving message
Of life and comfort and rest.

Bring free loving gifts to the alter
The best your treasures afford;
They are His, lent for your using
Nor left you to waste or to hoard.

Has there come to your heart no message
That the Master hath need of you?
Is there not in these fields some labor,
That your hand or heart may do?

Yes! to each of Christ's true disciples
The command is lovingly given.
Go, bear it to every creature,
This wonderful gift of Heaven."

Price 2 Cents.